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USSR-AFGHANISTAN



According to press reports quoting Pakistani officials, there are now 512,000 registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan compared with 387,000 in late December. The officials and sources in the Afghan resistance claim that Paktia Province in Afghanistan is virtually depopulated. (U)

Government and foreign aid officials in Pakistan are preparing to care for 1 million refugees by this summer and perhaps more if Soviet and Indian forces launch an all-out assault against the insurgents. UN officials are concerned that health and sanitation problems in the overcrowded camps could become serious during the hot summer months. To cope with permanent refugee populations, the Pakistanis are considering setting up village handicraft centers and making government land available for small-scale farming. (U) 

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